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DESIGN + INNOVATION + LIFESTYLE

Rock Out

A SoCal bath
turns up the volume

Into the Blue

Calming colors and warm neutrals headline 2013

After four years of uncertainty and a sluggish recovery, life may be turning a corner, but we're still in search of security. At least, that's what color forecasts for 2013 are indicating. From the various "Color of the Year" pronouncements to the palettes released by forecasting organizations, the message seems to be one of stability, balance, reinvention and even optimism.

Although the housing market collapse and economic woes engendered a new conservatism in consumer lifestyles and certainly in consumer spending, some experts have been seeing a growing weariness with being, well, wary. "People are tired of playing it safe and talking about the recession and the doom and gloom," said Leslie Harrington, executive director of The Color Association of the United States (CAUS). "They're trying to push themselves a little beyond making conservative color decisions." Consequently, while monochromatic stories, or groupings—which tend to be safe bets—dominated CAUS' 2012 forecast, this year's edition reintroduces combinations of different hues.

COOLER COLORS

But don't expect to see a sudden rash of brash and bold color schemes anytime soon. Last year's pops of bright orange, red and even teal, which may have been an expression of defiance or even escapism, have given way to more tranquil blues and regenerative greens. "With global issues, environmental concerns and the political atmosphere swirling around us, we seek the calm of blue skies, aqua seas and the trust that blue represents," said Kate Smith, president of Sensational Color. Similarly, Patricia Call, chairholder and VP emeritus of Color Marketing Group (CMG), noted, "Blue relates to a sense of relaxation and meditation," which seems universally needed, as variations of it appeared in all of CMG's regional reports. Moreover, blue "serves as the underpinning for most of the new colors" in the association's forecast, noted Call, and for its Next color, CMG chose Re-Blue, a mid-range colonial blue that, according to CMG President Mark Woodman, of Global Color Research Ltd., "can be as energizing as it can be soothing."

Not jazzed about blue? No problem. Greens continue to show strength and, having shed some of their earthiness, encompass everything from bright jewel tones, such as Pantone's Emerald, to yellow-infused and slightly grayed varieties. Also expected to win admiration is a soft minty pastel, which Smith said offers "a nod to Mid-century design but with freshness and rejuvenation" and may provide a refreshing alternative to "spa blue" for bathrooms.

Reds and oranges will also resonate this year, as they reflect our need for connection, comfort and warmth. Depending on the forecast, they range from blood red and ripe—or nearly ripe—tomato to coral, rust and terra cotta. CAUS has combined the reds and oranges with pink, yellow, nude and camel in two trend groupings: Entice, which is an "uplifting palette," said Harrington, and Embrace, which she likens to a "big bear hug" and includes colors with names such as "Cozy," "Radiant" and "Hugs" to evoke its feel-good character. Some experts reference haute cuisine and gardening for this year's reds, which have been described as being "vegetal" in tone.

NEUTRALS WARM UP

For kitchens and baths, however, many consumers will undoubtedly gravitate toward neutrals, which, by all accounts, are still going strong. According to Call, they account





for nine out of the 24 colors chosen by CMG and appear in nearly all of CAUS' color stories. Warmer with infusions of red and yellow, and less murky, they take their cues from nature, said Smith, and "deliver the restful environment" one needs in a world where visual stimuli are constant and marketing messages are relentless. Grays run the gamut from heathered to concrete and from medium to dark, while ivory, brown and black are deep and rich, helping to ground us visually and emotionally.

As to optimism? Think yellow, which again, depending on the forecaster, has either a prominent place—Benjamin Moore's Color of the Year is lemon sorbet—or "a key supporting role in the color palettes to supply the light of optimism," Smith said. As the world continues to regain its sense of normalcy, we'll take it either way. ■

—Alice Liao

Opposite page:

Terra-cotta-like colors appear in several forecasts, and tile companies are including terra cotta among their new offerings. The material's warmth, familiarity and rusticity are reassuring in uncertain times but also make elegant and elaborate designs, such as this floor medallion from **The Country Floors** Terra Cotta Collection, that much more appealing. The Mandala Medallion (shown) features a combination of terra cotta, travertine and marble and measures 60 in. in diameter. **Circle No. 200**

Are consumers tiring of stainless steel? As an alternative, **GE** has introduced Slate, a warm, gray metallic inspired by natural stone that easily complements a variety of wall colors, countertop materials and common floor and cabinet finishes. Easy to clean and fingerprint resistant, the matte finish is available on two French door refrigerators, two freestanding gas ranges, two freestanding electric ranges, a built-in dishwasher and an over-the-range microwave. **Circle No. 201**

The Furniture Guild's Stephen Collection comprises vanities in China red, sable, a wood stain or a soft Robin's egg blue (shown). Units are offered in standard and wall-hung designs in sizes ranging from a 20-in. single model to a 72-in. double vanity with drawers in the center. Each can be outfitted with built-in accessories, such as a hair dryer/curling iron kit, an internal power outlet, automatic LED lighting and a laundry hamper. The line also includes a matching linen tower and a mirror. **Circle No. 202**

This page:

Waterworks' Promenade puts a modern spin on the centuries-old tradition of cement tile flooring. Each tile is individually pressed, submerged in water and then air-dried for three weeks. The collection offers multiple sizes, 18 colors and 12 contemporary patterns. Shown are the 8-in. x 8-in. Lido field tile in aqua with salt matte solid and a 4-in. x 8-in. field tile in marina matte solid. **Circle No. 203**

Benjamin Moore designated lemon sorbet (2019-60), a soft yellow, its Color of the Year. According to Sonu Matthew, ASID, IIDA, the company's senior interior designer, the choice conveys a sense of optimism, which consumers may be feeling "as the world seems to be gradually turning the corner on recessionary times." It is one of several pastels the company predicts will make their way into many a home this year and offers "the ideal transition" from the more vibrant colors favored in recent years. **Circle No. 204**

Color forecasters are predicting strength and popularity for a range of greens, some of which may be kitchen- or bath-friendly. **Surfaces'** Ocean, for example, offers a warmer shade of green inspired by sea glass, as well as nine other "beachy" colors that reference everything from sand to seaweed. Available in 2-in. x 2-in. and single 4-in. x 8-in. formats on 12-in. x 12-in. sheets, the tiles have a soft, smooth surface as if worn by waves. **Circle No. 205**



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Circle No. 11



Atlas Homewares has introduced Modern Bronze, a new finish that combines the warmth of traditional oil-rubbed bronze with the contemporary edginess of graphite gray. Available on a variety of pull, knob and mini-knob designs, it can be specified in the Fulcrum, Roundabout, Sleek, Sutton Place, Thin Square Successi and U-Turn collections. **Circle No. 223**



Hansa's Hansalatrava brings drama to the bathroom with a sleek, blade-like profile that is unapologetically modern. The faucet measures approximately 10 in. tall and incorporates a special spout created to produce a diagonally flowing sheet of water while still maintaining 2.1 gpm at 60 psi. It is electronically operated via a small sensor panel equipped with colored LEDs to indicate water temperature. Hansalatrava is available in a European version with adapters for American installations. **Circle No. 224**

A custom-molded, wavy-edged glass countertop takes center stage in this lively kitchen, where white cabinets and countertops are accented with punches of red. To add whimsy, curves abound and art highlights a backsplash.





A Touch of Glass

Mixed materials are part of the fun in this California kitchen

By Holly Berecz

For the owners of this Southern California home, both entertainment and cooking are considered art forms. Consequently, it was only natural that they ask Elina Katsioulou-Beall, ckd, of DeWitt Designer Kitchens in Pasadena, CA, for "an artful composition" in their kitchen remodel. "The owners of this home are a fun couple who wanted their kitchen to reflect their jovial nature," Katsioulou-Beall said. In addition, with one of their older sons working as a chef, the kitchen had to provide all the amenities for him to cook in comfort during the holidays. Of course,



the couple also requested a fun, happy space where friends can enjoy their company while noshing on treats from the kitchen.

Katsioulas-Beall's response? A kitchen she describes as "transitional with a sense of whimsy." Throughout, transitional-style cabinets, specified in different colors, are offset with unexpected decorative elements, ranging from splashes of vibrant red and a dramatic chandelier to one-of-a-kind flower imagery and a series of relaxed curves. Katsioulas-Beall's solution also accommodates two specific items on the couple's wish list: "To use fun color to bring the house to life and to incorporate a textured glass countertop for entertaining," she said.

Although the remodel abounds with details to savor, "it's the glass countertop that is the big star here," Katsioulas-Beall said. "The couple had seen a similar glass countertop, as well as the wavy bar sink, and envisioned their friends sitting across from them, eating clams on the half shell and enjoying drinks from the bar sink." Made of custom-molded glass, the countertop measures 1 1/2 in. thick and is integrated with undercounter lighting for a touch of sparkle. Its undulant shape echoes the curves of the bar sink, adding the element of fun the owners requested.

To further enliven the space, while also enhancing visual continuity, the remodel incorporates punches of red throughout. Katsioulas-Beall suggested a red range as a way to do something fun in the cooking area and, to carry the color onto the backsplash, drew a Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired calla lily, adding veins of red inside the flower and indulging in a little visual punning: "The flower opens its white petals to present the curved pot filler—the stem—coming out of the flower's red center," she said. Tempered glass protects the artwork while also allowing for easy cleaning. Above, a streamlined island hood with a glass vent is installed close to, but does not touch, the wall in order to leave a clear view of the flower. "When you see it in person, three-dimensionally, it's really quite striking," Katsioulas-Beall noted.

Because the couple liked the idea of being able to see each other and talk during meal preparation, Katsioulas-Beall designed a J-shaped peninsula comprised of three distinctive workstations, each featuring a distinct countertop material. Glass defines the entertaining area while white quartz establishes the cooking zone. A stainless-steel countertop, which melds into a sink and extends to the end of the island, provides a place for prep work. "The J-shape is ideal for letting guests join in without being in the way,"





A J-shaped peninsula (below) provides the perfect layout for the homeowners to each have their own work area, yet be able to see each other and talk while preparing meals. It comprises three work areas, which are differentiated by countertop material: glass, quartz and stainless steel. The peninsula also serves as a buffet during large parties. Custom artwork (left), a giant Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired calla lily, decorates the backsplash in the cooking area. It is protected by tempered glass, which also makes cleaning easy.

Katsioulas-Beall explained. "The owners can easily transform the sink and glass counter area into a perfect serving buffet, and the shape makes it ideal for having a chef or bartender stand behind and serve."

Complementary cabinet colors further differentiate the kitchen's various work zones. White cabinets and a white hutch house all dishes and flatware. The units and individual drawers with a slate brown finish hold organizational accessories, such as knife blocks and a corner pullout, which allows easy access to all the tools needed for cooking and prep work. Tucked between windows overlooking the pool and an outdoor fire pit, a cabinet in red extending to the ceiling contains a beverage center, complete with wine glasses, coffee cups and a coffee system. Internally lit and equipped with corrugated glass doors for added interest, it is also conveniently located above an undercounter wine cooler and serves to divide the entertainment and cleanup areas.

With much attention directed to making sure the different work areas and materials work beautifully in concert, the completed kitchen packs a lot of functionality and style into a modest footprint. However, "piecing together this puzzle did have its challenges," Katsioulas-Beall said. "Every piece needed to be designed individually and then carefully put together." Orchestrating the efforts of the many tradespeople involved required detailed planning. But in the end, all came together, resulting in the perfect space for entertaining with ease, style and, of course, fun. ■



SOURCES

Designer: Elina Katsioulas-Beall, CKD—DeWitt Designer Kitchens, Pasadena, CA; www.dewittdesignerkitchens.com **Manufacturers:** Cabinetry: Columbia Cabinets; Countertop fabrication: Molise Marble & Granite; Stainless-steel fabrication: Fine Design Fabrication; Artwork: Elina Katsioulas-Beall; Countertops: ThinkGlass, EuroStone; Range: Bertazzoni; Ventilation hood: Best by Broan; Refrigerator, coffee system, microwave and warming drawer: Miele; Dishwasher: Bosch; Wine cooler: U-Line; Sinks: Franke, Elkay; Faucets: KWC, Franke, Mina; Pot filler: Danze; Tile: Ultraglas; Chandelier: Possini; Hardware: Anthropologie **Photography:** © Suki Medencevic